



Announcements, Spring 2008

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PBS AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WHITMAN FILM NOW ON THE WEB

The two-hour Walt Whitman film telecast nationally on April 14, 2008, on the PBS *American Experience* series, is now available for viewing on the Web. The PBS *American Experience* website (www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/whitman/) also has information about Whitman, excerpts of interviews with the various scholars and writers who appear in the program, including Betsy Erkkila, Ed Folsom, Allan Gurganus, Karen Karbiener, Kenneth Price, and David Reynolds. Also appearing in the film are poets Billy Collins, Martín Espada, and Yusef Komunyakaa. J. K. Simmons narrates the film, and Chris Cooper is the voice of Walt Whitman. The film was directed and written by Mark Zwonitzer and produced by Patrick Long and Jamila Wignot. A DVD of the film is available for purchase on the website for \$24.99.

WHITMAN PANELS AT AMERICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION MEETING

There will be two Whitman panels at the American Literature Association meeting in San Francisco, California, from May 22-25, 2008. "Whitman and the Civil War" will be chaired by Ed Folsom (University of Iowa) and will include the following papers: "Whitman and the Body in War," presented by Helene Littmann (University College of the Fraser Valley); "Re-collecting Soldiers: Whitman and the Appreciation of Human Value," presented by Adam Bradford (University of Iowa), and "Lyric War: Ethics and Citizenship in *Drum-Taps*," presented by Munia Bhaumik (University of California, Berkeley). The second panel, "Whitman and Periodicals," will be chaired by Kenneth M. Price (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and will include "Whitman's History-Making Falmouth Camp Notebook: Constructing the Civil War for the *New York Times* and *Drum-Taps*," presented by Joshua Matthews (University of Iowa), "Genteel Walt Whitman: 'American Poetry' in 1876," by Michael Cohen (Macalester College), and "Interviewing Whitman: The Press in the Poet's Home," by Brett Barney, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In addition, for a panel on "Writing War," Rebecca Weir (Jesus College, University of Cambridge) will present "'Inscription Rude': Walt Whitman's War Writing," and, for a panel on "Nineteenth-Century Literary Connections," Matthias Schubnell (University of the Incarnate Word) will offer "Walt Whitman and Frans Masereel."

WHITMAN PANEL AT MIDWEST MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION MEETING

Luke Mancuso (St. John's University) has organized a panel on "Walt Whitman and Reconstruction Cultural Narratives" for the M/MLA annual convention to take place November 13-16, 2008, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Participants include: Jeremy Wells (Southern Illinois University-Carbondale), who will

speak on “*Leaves of Grass* and the Romance of the Plantation”; Eve Rosenbaum (University of Iowa), speaking on “Walt Whitman’s Evolving Representations of the Capital City,”; and Tatia Jacobson Jordan (Florida State University, Tallahassee), presenting on “E. M. Forster’s Response to Whitman.”

IN MEMORIAM:
PHILIP CALLOW, 1924-2007

Philip Callow, a British novelist and poet who also wrote a series of biographies of those artists who most influenced him, including *From Noon to Starry Night: A Life of Walt Whitman* (1992), died on September 22, 2007. His early novels, including *The Hosanna Man* (1956), were highly regarded, but by the 1970s he had turned his attention to biography, writing the lives of D. H. Lawrence, Van Gogh, Whitman, Robert Louis Stevenson, Cézanne, and Chekhov. He described his biographical method as “cut and paste,” since he did all his research from home and did not use primary sources. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Up-to-date announcements about Whitman-related news and events
are available at the WWQR website (www.uiowa.edu/~wwqr).

